

Remarks

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1, 9, 17, 18, 23, 30, and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2-5, 7-8, 10-13, 15-16, 19-22, 24-27, and 31-33 have been amended. No claims have been added or withdrawn. Thus, claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-22, 24-29, 31-33, and 35 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections § 112

Claims 3, 7-8, 11, 15, 20, 25, 31-33, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3, 11, 7, 8, 15, 20, 25, and 31-33 have been amended. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3, 7-8, 11, 15, 20, 25, 31-33, and 35 be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

Claims 7-8, 15-16, 20-22, 25-26, 31-33, and 35 are allowable if amended to overcome the 112 rejections and if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As shown above, 3, 11, 7, 8, 15, 20, 25, and 31-33 have been amended to overcome the 112 rejections. In addition, claims 7-8, 15-16, 20-22, 25-26, and 31-33 have been amended so that they are independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Thus, the Application respectfully submits that claims 7-8, 15-16, 20-22, 25-26, and 31-33 are allowable.

Claims 2-6 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 7. Claim 19 depends, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 20. Claims 24 and 27-29 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 25. Claim 35 depends, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 33. For at least the reason that they depend from allowable claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-6, 19, 24, 27-29, and 35 are allowable.

Claim Rejections § 102

Claims 1-6, 9-14, 17-19, 23-24, 27-30, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by published U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0071531 filed by Oshins (*Oshins*). Claims 1, 9, 17-18, 23, 30, and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice and, thus, the rejection of claims 1, 9, 17-18, 23, 30, and 34 is moot.

As discussed above, claims 2-6, 10-14, 19, 24, and 27-29 are either allowable or depend (directly or indirectly) from an allowable claim. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2-6, 10-14, 19, 24, and 27-29 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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